

Serial No. 10/654,746
Atty. Doc. No. 03P12261US

REMARKS

The Applicant notes that the Examiner has found that Claims 1-14 and 20 contain allowable subject matter, and the Applicant thanks the Examiner for such finding.

Applicant has amended claim 15. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending in the application and
5 presented for examination. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Response To Rejections Under Section 102:

Claims 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner contending that
10 these claims are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,556,890 to Thorn ("Thorn"). The Examiner apparently reads Thorn as disclosing a turbine engine blade ring having a cylindrical body with an inner peripheral surface, a plurality of notches in the outer peripheral surface of the body, and at least one pair of attachments; the Thorn attachments can be a pair of posts which may each be disposed substantially peripherally opposite to the other attachment, and the plurality
15 of notches can be disposed substantially equidistantly about the outer periphery of the blade ring.

The Thorn reference is directed to a turbine diaphragm arrangement and method of assembly particularly suited for preventing wear during usage. The Thorn assembly method involves measuring deflection of the diaphragm rim using sensors to track motion of blocks
20 mounted on the rim periphery during heating and/or cooling cycles. The resulting measurements are used to identify expansion paths generated by rim locations during operation. The Thorn reference discloses supporting the measured diaphragm section in a manner which will allow free expansion and contraction along the identified paths, as by securing the diaphragm section with dowel pins aligned substantially parallel to the identified
25 deflection paths. (See Thorn at Col. 5, Lines 13-29.)

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The Thorn reference does not provide "a blade ring for a turbine engine comprising: a hollow substantially cylindrical body having an inner peripheral surface and an outer peripheral surface; a plurality of airfoils attached to the inner peripheral surface of the body; a plurality of notches in the outer peripheral surface of the body, said plurality of
5 notches adapted to cooperatively define a plurality of circumferentially-distinct orientations; and at least one pair of attachments on the outer peripheral surface, whereby said plurality of notches facilitates airfoil clocking" as is claimed in the present invention.

In fact, instead of providing multiple orientations, Thorn reference provides just one. As
10 noted in Col 3, Lines 57-63, Thorn prevents excessive wear by testing the diaphragm section to identify thermally-induced deflection paths, preselecting of a single point which is to be "maintained fixed in space relative to the turbine casing...", and pinning the diaphragm in a manner that permits movement of the pinned rim location in a direction corresponding to the location deflection path identified during testing (see Col 5, lines 51-59). As a result, Thorn
15 reference simply does not disclose a blade ring adapted to define a plurality of circumferentially-distinct orientations to facilitate airfoil clocking, as is presently claimed.

In view of the above, Independent claim 15 is patentable. Dependent claims 16-19 are also patentable at least based on their dependency from their respective base claims, as well as based on their own merit. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests
20 that the Examiner withdraw the Section 102 rejection.

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CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the objections and rejections and timely pass the application to allowance.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the objections and rejections in the application and to place the claims in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this paper or application, or if any undeveloped issues or questions remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve such issue or question. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper. The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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